

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBK #1790 1640133
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 120133Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3336
INFO RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN IMMEDIATE 3327
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 6043
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 8782
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI IMMEDIATE 6946
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE 6945
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE 0204
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5166
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 7577
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 4684
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE 4785
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0820
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 2307
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 001790

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ARF](#) [EAID](#) [ASEAN](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: THAI FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED ARF STATEMENT ON
REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

REF: STATE 61440

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i., James F. Entwistle, reason 1.4
(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Post delivered reftel points regarding the proposed ARF Ministerial Statement on Regional Disaster Preparedness to MFA Counselor Suriya Chindawongse on June 10. In response, Suriya stated that Thailand was generally supportive of USG initiatives and appreciated the spirit behind the proposal. However, he felt that further clarification was needed on the process for producing such a statement, and that the proposal was too late for consideration at the July ARF meeting.

¶2. (C) Suriya expressed concern that senior ARF officials would not be able to review a statement and move it forward in time for the July meeting. He said that no procedures were in place to consider items not proposed during ARF meetings. He was also unsure how to combine an ARF and ASEAN Standby Arrangement System (SAS). He pointed out that ASEAN countries needed to work on individual SASs and that trying to combine the two would overwhelm a program that was at present incomplete. He expressed interest in learning more about the proposed mechanisms of an ARF SOFA template since he observed that most SOFAs were bilateral agreements, not multilateral. Responding to our suggestion that an ASEAN country draft the text, Suriya observed that, since this was a USG proposal, he would think it natural for the USG to provide a draft.

¶3. (C) Suriya felt that our proposed ARF Workplan for Regional Disaster Preparedness would detract from ARF action and add to an overflow of ARF documents, including ARF's draft "strategic guidelines," which Suriya predicted would not be ready by the July meeting, despite a year-long review. Nevertheless, Suriya added that he would be meeting with ASEAN members next week and would be willing to mention the proposed statement at that time. He suggested that an alternative option would be to consider the statement next year, when Thailand chairs ARF.

ENTWISTLE